

Tracing Trash Back to Its Roots



Objective

To teach students to identify the various natural resources used to produce common items that become waste.



Activity Description

Students will play “Trash Bingo” as a method to identify what natural resources are used to make common products.



Materials Needed

- Copies of bingo card for each student (make copies and then cut sheets so half the students get one version of the bingo card and half get a different version).



Key Vocabulary Words

Natural resources
Renewable resources
Nonrenewable resources



Duration

1 hour



Skills Used

Communication
Problem solving



Activity

Step 1: Review and explain the vocabulary words above. Explain that most products are made from natural resources. (Refer to the Teacher Fact Sheets titled *Natural Resources* on page 5 and *Products* on page 25 for background information.)

Step 2: List five categories of natural resources on the blackboard: animals, fossil fuels, metals, plants/trees, and sand. Discuss with students some examples of products that are made from these natural resources. Brainstorm a list of things that are made from natural resources (mostly everything!) and make another list on the blackboard. Make sure there are at least five products for each natural resource category. Encourage students to think of food and beverage items and con-

Common Products

Aluminum can	Grocery bag
Aluminum lawn chair	Hamburger
Apple core	Leather jacket
Bicycle tire	Linen pants
Bologna sandwich	Milk container
Book	Mirror
Bread	Nylon pantyhose
Cereal box	Sandwich bag
Cotton shirt	Soda bottle
Egg shells	Window
Glass bottle of juice	Wool hat



science



social
studies



Journal Activity

Ask students to write about what natural resources mean to them. Ask them to pick a natural resource and describe why it is special or important to them.

Or

Have students write about their favorite toy or game. Have them write a history of where it came from, starting from when it was a natural resource.

tainers, household product containers, and household items (furniture, books, appliances). See suggestions in box if the list is deficient.

Step 3: Explain the rules for bingo, and hand out bingo cards.

Step 4: Select words from the students' product list (or the list of suggestions) and call out words one at a time. Instruct students to find the category or categories that each item belongs in on their bingo sheet and write the name of the product. There may be more than one natural resource for each product (for example, a pair of tennis shoes might fill three categories: plant, fossil fuel, and metal).

Step 5: The first student to fill the card wins. Use the T-R-A-S-H letters as free spaces. Be sure to check the student's bingo sheet to see if all answers are correct!

Step 6: After the bingo game, have each student circle the items that are made from renewable resources.



Assessment

1. What are natural resources?
2. What's the difference between renewable and nonrenewable natural resources?



Enrichment

1. Additional questions include asking students what happens if we keep using more and more natural resources? How can we stop using so many natural resources? How can we use more renewable resources and less nonrenewable resources?
2. Play show and tell. Have students bring in one of their favorite "things" and tell the class where it came from, including the resources used in producing it and how it came to be in their house. Have them describe what they will do with it when it is broken, old, used up, or no longer needed.
3. Conduct a scavenger hunt. Make a list of common items found inside or outside of the classroom that are derived from animals, plants, metals/minerals, fossil fuels, or sand. Have students find 15 of 30 items and identify which category they belong in. Give the students 15 minutes to look for the items, then call them together and discuss their answers.

Name: _____

Trash Bingo



Animals	Fossil Fuels	Metals	S	Sand
Plants/Trees	Metals	Metals	Sand	Fossil Fuels
Fossil Fuels	R	A	Plants/Trees	Sand
T	Animals	Sand	Plants/Trees	H
Plants/Trees	Fossil Fuels	Fossil Fuels	Metals	Metals



T	Animals	Metals	Fossil Fuels	Fossil Fuels
Sand	Plants/Trees	A	Metals	Sand
Animals	Metals	Metals	Fossil Fuels	Plants/Trees
Plants/Trees	Sand	Sand	S	Plants/Trees
Fossil Fuels	R	Plants/Trees	Fossil Fuels	H

Trash Bingo



Name: _____